

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4506

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US MISSION UN NEW YORK 734

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, SK, NK, US

SUBJECT: ASEAN MEETING IN MANILA TO DISCUSS UNGA-KOREA & PUERTO
RICO

REF: MANILA 13489

1. MFA UNDERSECRETARY KHOR ENG HEE, WHO ATTENDED ASEAN MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN MANILA SEPT 1-2, TOLD DCM AND POLOFF SEPT 7 THAT THE MEETING WAS INFORMAL AND CONSULTATIVE AND THAT NO MAJOR GROUP DECISIONS WERE TAKEN. WITH REGARD TO KOREA, KHOR SAID THAT THAI MFA UNDERSECRETARY ANAND HAD TAKEN LEAD IN URGING ASEAN SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY AND OPPOSITION TO UNFRIENDLY RESOLUTIONS BECAUSE "THE SOUTH KOREANS HAD BEEN WORKING ON HIM." THREE POINTS WERE DISCUSSED. FIRST, THE SOUTH KOREANS HAD APPARENTLY GOTTEN ANAND TO PROPOSE THAT ASEAN JOIN IN AN EFFORT TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE FRIENDLY RATHER THAN THE
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UNFREIDNLY RESOLUTION. KHOR NOTED THAT THIS

WAS CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE AS THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION HAD BEEN PROPOSED FIRST. AN ATTEMPT TO SHIFT PRECEDENCE TO THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION THROUGH PARLIAMENTARY SLIGHT-OF-HAND WOULD SIMPLY STRENGTHEN SYMPATHY FOR PYONGYANG, HE SAID. SECOND, ANAND REPORTEDLY PROPOSED THAT ASEAN OPPOSE THE NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION AND VOTE FOR THE SOUTH KOREAN RESOLUTION EN BLOC. KHOR INDICATED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN IMPOSSIBILITY. THIRDLY, ANAND SAID THE SOUTH KOREANS WANTED ASEAN SPONSORSHIP OF THE SOUTH KOREAN RESOLUTION. KHOR FELT THAT THIS WAS UNLIKELY BUT THAT SOME ASEAN MEMBERS MIGHT CO-SPONSOR. IN THE DISCUSSION, KHOR NOTED THAT SOUTH KOREAN FEAR THAT SUPPORTERS OF THE NORTH WOULD BE ABLE TO BLOCK VOTING ON THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION WAS UNWARRANTED AS THE SRI LANKA'S AMERASINGHE WOULD CHAIR THE GA.

2. ACCORDING TO KHOR, THE ASEAN SENIOR OFFICIALS DISCUSSED PUERTO RICO IN THE CONTEXT OF SEVERAL OTHER PROBLEMS, INCLUDING BRUNEI AND TIMOR, ON WHICH THERE WAS SOME DIVERGENCE WITHIN ASEAN. WHETHER TO SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THESE VARIOUS ISSUES WILL BE LEFT TO EACH COUNTRY TO DECIDE BUT MALAYSIA WILL DEFINITELY BACK THE U.S. ON PUERTO RICO. (FYI. KHOR HAD HEARD FROM THE MALAYSIAN UN DELEGATION THAT NORWAY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE TALKING TO CUBA IN AN EFFORT TO TONE DOWN HAVANA'S ATTACKS IN THE GA RE PUERTO RICO.)

3. COMMENT: KHOR WAS BEING SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUS WHEN HE STATED THAT ASEAN SUPPORT IN FAVOR OF SOUTH KOREA WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. WE DO NOT EXPECT THE GOM TO DEVIATE FROM ITS PAST PRACTICE OF ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS. RE HIS REMARKS ON PUERTO RICO, WE ASSUME THAT "PROBLEM" APPLIES ONLY TO TIMOR AND BRUNEI.
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